

Perfins as revenue canceling devices

Jacob Kisner (#2168) sent us a photocopy of a stock transaction slip dated 12/15/36 that gives us a positive identification for U.S. pattern U102.5. The slip is from Underwriters Trust Company, 37 Broadway, New York, and has a pair of 80¢ State of New York stock transfer stamps with U102.5 (UT/Co) used as a cancellation punch. As the pattern appears in three pairs of two each on the slip, it is safe to assume that the device was a twin-headed perforator. U102.5 is an A-rated perfins which suggests that the perforator was probably used to perforate a few postage stamps either as a favor or as an error and that the machine was not intended for postal control use. Chuck Spaulding (#2355) is working on a checklist of perfins on U.S. revenue stamps and new member Ken Pruett (1441 Urbana Lane, Lincoln, NE 68505-1971) is working specifically on a checklist of perfins on New York State stock transfer stamps. If you share their interests, contact them and get involved in the research. Several U.S. perfins were created for use as canceling devices and wound up being used sparingly on postage stamps—and sometimes perfins designed for use on stamps got used as canceling devices. So far, relatively little is known about these perfins on revenue stamps.

